

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10-20, 22, 23, and 25 were pending in the present application prior to the present Amendment. Claims 1, 2, 12, and 18 have been amended in order to clarify these claims, and claims 26-37 have been added herein. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10-20, 22, 23, and 25-37 are therefore currently pending in the present application.

No new matter has been added to this application by the amendments made herein, with support being found in the specification, claims and figures as filed. Support for claim steps which recite the transformation of a search inquiry from one human language into another are supported, e.g., in Figures 3A and 4A of the present application, which illustrate the transformation of a search inquiry from Chinese into words expressed using the Roman alphabet.

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment and consideration of the present application in view of the present amendments and the Applicant's comments below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10-20, 22, 23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,640,565 to Dickinson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,983,322 to Tripp. Neither Dickinson nor Tripp, however, teach a system or method for "transforming a search inquiry placed in a first human language into one or more other operative human languages ... enabling the transmission of search inquiries between servers that operate in different languages," as recited in independent claims 1, 2, 12, and 18.

With respect to the search inquiries of the Dickinson patent, the Office Action dated August 9, 2007 states on page 3 that "Dickinson does not ... teach translating the query." It is asserted however that the Tripp patent discloses "a web based search design" with "a means for translating the search data (column 3, lines 38-41, Tripp)."

The cited passage of the Tripp patent discloses that "to reduce storage requirements, the ASCII words for a segment may be translated to shorter average

representations with a data dictionary on the server for that segment.” The “translation” referred to in this case is from a larger-sized representation of data into a smaller-sized representation, i.e. a mechanical conversion of data from one representation into another in order to compress it.

The present systems and methods, however, involve search inquiries in which data in one human language is translated into another human language. Translating information from one human language into another involves more than the simple mechanical conversion of data. This is true for all human languages, but is particularly true for translations between Chinese and English or other alphabetic languages, as discussed in the present application. For example, the following four ideographically different Chinese names are all pronounced as “lee” (in the Mandarin dialect):

李 理 里 利

Thus, a search inquiry comprising name information corresponding to the term “lee” expressed in English or other languages using the Roman alphabet cannot be mechanically transformed, due to the different possibilities for translating this term into Chinese.

Translations from Chinese into alphabetic languages pose similar issues. These same four characters can each be represented using different combinations of Roman alphabet letters as “lee” or “li” (if the Mandarin pronunciation of these characters is used) or “lai” (in Cantonese).

In view of the foregoing, the mechanical data conversion disclosed by the Tripp reference is not analogous to the translation of search inquiries from one human language into another. The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the Tripp patent does not supply the deficiency noted by the Examiner with respect to the Dickenson patent, and that independent claims 1, 2, 12, and 18 are therefore not obvious in view of Dickenson and Tripp.

Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-17, 19, 20, 22, 23, and 25 depend either directly or indirectly from one of independent claims 1, 2, 12 and 18, and therefore are believed to

be allowable for the foregoing reasons, in addition to containing further patentable features. In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10-20, 22, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

New Claims 26-37

New claim 26 recites a method for managing contact information in which a network of servers, using protocols in a uniform operative language, transform the contact information from the first human language into a second human language and perform a search with the transformed contact information. For the reasons stated above with respect to independent claims 1, 2, 12 and 18, claim 26 is therefore patentable over the prior art of record. Claims 27-37 depend from claim 26 and therefore are also believed to be allowable, in addition to containing independently patentable features.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that all pending claims, claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10-20, 22, 23, and 25-37, are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is thus respectfully requested. If, however, there remain any issues which can be addressed by telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees due in connection with this Amendment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2090.

Respectfully submitted,

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